

5 I Claim:

1. A cutting unit (1) for trimming sheet material (44) such as paper, films, or the like, comprising a planar bed (33) for supporting the sheet material (44) and a rotary cutting device (34) that has a knife carriage (36) displaceable on a guide bar (35) and a circular knife (39) rotatably mounted thereon,
10 wherein the guide bar (35) is raisable from a lower cutting position into an upper initial position, and lowerable from the latter back into the cutting position; and the gap between bed (33) and guide bar (35) is inaccessible from the ends of the guide bar (35).
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2. The cutting unit as defined in Claim 1, wherein the guide bar (35) is guided in vertically displaceable fashion in the region of its ends.
3. The cutting unit as defined in Claim 2, wherein the guide bar is raisable by 5 to
20 20 mm.
4. The cutting unit as defined in Claim 1, wherein the guide bar (35) is mounted pivotably about a horizontal axis in the region of one end.
- 25 5. The cutting unit as defined in Claim 4, wherein the guide bar (35) is pivotable through an angle of at most 10°.
6. The cutting unit as defined in Claim 1, wherein the end(s) of the guide bar (35) overlap(s) the bed (33).
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7. The cutting unit as defined in Claim 6, wherein each overlapping end of the guide bar (35) has a downwardly projecting protective tab (42) overlapping the bed (33).
- 35 8. The cutting unit as defined in Claim 7, wherein the protective tab (42) is laterally guided in a slot (43) in the bed (33).

- 5 9. The cutting unit as defined in Claim 1, wherein without actuation, the guide bar (35) assumes the cutting position.
10. The cutting unit as defined in Claim 1, wherein without actuation, the guide bar (35) is held in the upper position by means of a spring.
- 10 11. The cutting unit as defined in Claim 1, wherein the guide bar (35) is retainable in the cutting position at its vertically movable end(s) by means of an immobilization device (48) or devices.
- 15 12. The cutting unit as defined in Claim 11, wherein the or each immobilization device (48) is embodied as a snap device into which the guide bar (35) automatically and disengageably snaps upon movement into the cutting position.
- 20 13. The cutting unit as defined in Claim 12, wherein the snap device has an actuation slider (50) with which the snap device is disengageable.